

"PROPOSED AMENDMENT"

Application No. 10/022,242  
Attorney's Docket No. 033468-003  
Page 3

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows.

24

1. (Currently Amended) A sign unit which is adapted to be supported with at least a portion exposed to incident light, comprising a sheet-like device (1) with a front (3) exhibiting the information of the sign unit and with a back (4) opposite to the front, and at least one light-emitting member (2) which is arranged on the sheet-like device, ~~characterized in that said the~~ wherein the at least one light-emitting member (2) has a front end (5) which is positioned at or in front of the front (3) of the sheet-like device (1) and a rear opposite end (6), that ~~said the~~ at least one light-emitting member (2) is made of a fluorescent plastic material and has a thickness which is considerably smaller than its length between ~~said the~~ front (5) and rear (6) ends, ~~said the~~ at least one light-emitting member (2) being adapted to absorb, between ~~said the~~ ends (5, 6), incident light (13) and conduct this to the front end (5) for emission (26) at the front (3) of the sign unit, wherein the portion, projecting from the sheet-like device, of the at least one light-emitting member is enclosed in a casing which is fixed to the device and which is made of a transparent material, and the casing is coated with a diffusion layer for spreading and leveling the incident light over an entire light-absorbing surface of the at least one light-emitting member.

2. (Currently Amended) A sign unit as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sheet-like device (1) has at least one through slot (14), that ~~the~~ at least one

**"PROPOSED AMENDMENT"**

Application No. 10/022,242  
Attorney's Docket No. 033468-003  
Page 4

light-emitting member (2) is arranged in ~~said the~~ slot (14), and that ~~said the at least one~~  
light-emitting member (2) is included in the information of the sign unit.

3. (Currently Amended) A sign unit as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~  
wherein said the at least one light-emitting member (2) is inserted into the ~~associated~~ slot in  
the sheet-like device (1) in such manner that the front end (5) of ~~said the at least one light-~~  
emitting member (2) is positioned at the front (3) of the sheet-like device (1) and ~~its the~~ rear  
opposite end (6) of the at least one light-emitting member is positioned at a considerable  
distance behind the back (4) of the device (1).

4. (Currently Amended) A sign unit as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~  
wherein the at least one light-emitting member (2) is a sheet-like element which is one of  
straight ~~and/or~~ and curved in cross-section.

5. (Currently Amended) A sign unit as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~  
wherein the at least one light-emitting member (2) is tubular (19).

6. (Currently Amended) A sign unit as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~  
wherein the at least one light-emitting member (2) comprises a plurality of rod-shaped or  
bar-shaped elements (12) which are arranged side by side.

**"PROPOSED AMENDMENT"**

Application No. 10/022,242  
Attorney's Docket No. 033468-003  
Page 5

7. (Currently Amended) A sign unit as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~  
wherein the at least one light-emitting member (2) comprises a number of elements in the  
shape of one of a sheet (2, 2', 2''), a tube (19) and/or and a rod (12).

CH

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A sign unit as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that~~ A  
sign unit which is adapted to be supported with at least a portion exposed to incident light,  
comprising a sheet-like device with a front exhibiting information of the sign unit and with  
a back opposite to the front, and at least one light-emitting member which is arranged on  
the sheet-like device, wherein the at least one light-emitting member has a front end which  
is positioned at or in front of the front of the sheet-like device and a rear opposite end, that  
the at least one light-emitting member is made of a fluorescent plastic material and has a  
thickness which is considerably smaller than its length between the front and rear ends, the  
at least one light-emitting member being adapted to absorb, between the ends, incident  
light and conduct this to the front end for emission at the front of the sign unit, wherein the  
length between the ends (5, 6) of the at least one light-emitting member (2) increases from  
the an upper portion of said the at least one light-emitting member in the a mounted state of  
the sign unit (1) towards the a lower portion (6') of the at least one light-emitting member.

9. (Currently Amended) A sign unit as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~  
the, wherein edge sides (6-8) of the at least one light-emitting member (2) which are not

**"PROPOSED AMENDMENT"**

Application No. 10/022,242  
Attorney's Docket No. 033468-003  
Page 6

intended to emit light ~~are provided with emission-preventing means, such as a reflective coating (25), a prismatic body (22), a mirror element or the like~~ prevent emissions.

10. (Currently Amended) A sign unit as claimed in claim 1 ~~8~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the portion ~~(10, 11)~~, projecting from the sheet-like device ~~(1)~~, of the at least one light-emitting member ~~(2)~~ is enclosed in a casing ~~(16)~~ which is fixed to said ~~the~~ device ~~(1)~~ and which is made of a transparent material.

11. (Currently Amended) A sign unit as claimed in claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the casing ~~(16)~~ is coated with a diffusion layer ~~(17)~~ for spreading and leveling the incident light ~~(13)~~ over the an entire light-absorbing surface ~~(10, 11)~~ of the at least one light-emitting member ~~(2)~~.

12. (Currently Amended) A sign unit as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the at least one light-emitting member ~~(2)~~ comprises an inner portion ~~(18)~~ and, surrounding the same, an outer portion ~~(19)~~, and that a light-guiding element ~~(23)~~ with a small degree of attenuation of light is arranged adjacent to and along the outer portion ~~(19)~~ and inside the same, that a first reflective device ~~(22)~~ is arranged at the rear end of the outer portion ~~(19)~~ in order to reflect light from said the portion (19) into one end of the light-guiding element ~~(23)~~, and that a second reflective device ~~(24)~~ is arranged at the other

**"PROPOSED AMENDMENT"**

Application No. 10/022,242  
Attorney's Docket No. 033468-003  
Page 7

opposite end of the light-guiding element (23) to reflect light from the light-guiding element (23) into the other portion (18).

13. (Currently Amended) A sign unit as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the at least one light-emitting member (2) comprises an inner member (2'') and, surrounding the same, outer members (2, 2'), and that the inner member (2'') projects from the rear end (6) of the surrounding member/members (2, 2').

14. (Currently Amended) A sign unit as claimed in claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the front end (5) of the inner member (2'') is arranged at a distance behind the back (4) of the sheet-like device (1), and that a light-guiding element (23) with a small degree of attenuation of light is arranged between said the front end (5) and the sheet-like device (1).

15. Canceled.

16. (Currently Amended) A sign unit as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the at least one light-emitting member (2) is a sheet-like element which is one of straight and/or and curved in cross-section.

17. (Currently Amended) A sign unit as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the at least one light-emitting member (2) is tubular (19).

**"PROPOSED AMENDMENT"**

Application No. 10/022,242  
Attorney's Docket No. 033468-003  
Page 8

18. (Currently Amended) A sign unit as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~  
wherein the at least one light-emitting member (2) is tubular (19).

19. (Currently Amended) A sign unit as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~  
wherein the at least one light-emitting member (2) comprises a plurality of rod-shaped or  
bar-shaped elements (12) which are arranged side by side.

20. (Currently Amended) A sign unit as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~  
wherein the at least one light-emitting member (2) comprises a plurality of rod-shaped or  
bar-shaped elements (12) which are arranged side by side.

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